



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
Washington, D.C. 20231
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/314,518	05/19/1999	WAYNE D. GROVER	T-L-CASE-4	5305

7590 07/03/2002

FLYNN THIEL BOUTELL & TANIS PC
2026 RAMBLING ROAD
KALAMAZOO, MI 490081699

EXAMINER

TRAN, THIEN D

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2665

DATE MAILED: 07/03/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

CB

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/314,518

Applicant(s)

GROVER ET AL.

Examiner

Thien D Tran

Art Unit

2665

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 May 1999.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 11-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 11-30 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) do not apply to the examination of this application as the application being examined was not (1) filed on or after November 29, 2000, or (2) voluntarily published under 35 U.S.C. 122(b). Therefore, this application is examined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

2. Claims 11-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being participate by Ellinas et al (U.S Patent No 6,331,905 B1).

Regarding claims 11, 30, Ellinas discloses a telecommunication network comprising:

plural interconnected routers; and at least one protecting router comprising a router table, the router table having an entry identifying an alternative route around an adjacent router to the protecting router in case of failure of the adjacent router. See col.11 lines 5-25, and figures 13-15.

Regarding claim 17, Ellinas discloses a data packet for a network of routers, data packet comprising:

an ID field that specifies a cycle of routers in which the routers in the cycle are all adjacent a router not in the cycle and a data field. See col.18 lines 30-50.

Regarding claims 20, 29, Ellinas discloses a method of protecting against router failure in a network, in which the network includes plural interconnected routers, the method comprising the step of:

storing at a protecting router an entry identifying a cycle of routers that form at least one alternative route around an adjacent router to the protected router, in which the cycle of routers includes all routers directly connected to the adjacent router and not the adjacent router. See col.10 lines 40-60.

Regarding claim 12, Ellinas discloses that a router table has an entry identifying a port associated with the alternative route. See figure 14

Regarding claims 13, 21, Ellinas discloses that the alternative route includes a cycle of routers directly connected to the adjacent router and there is associated with each router in the cycle of routers a routing table with an entry identifying the cycle of routers. See col.7 lines 35-45.

Regarding claims 14, 26, 27, Ellinas discloses the protecting router, comprising a router table, the router table having an entry identifying a cycle of routers directly connected to an adjacent router to the protecting router, the cycle of routers not including the adjacent router. See figure 11, col.17 lines 10-25.

Regarding claims 15, 28, Ellinas discloses that the router table has an entry identifying a port associated with the cycle of routers. See figure 14.

Regarding claims 16, 25, Ellinas discloses that the protecting router has a router table in which is stored, for each adjacent router to the protecting router, an entry identifying a cycle of routers directly connected to the adjacent router to the protecting router, each cycle of routers not including the respective adjacent router. See col.15 lines 30-50.

Regarding claims 18, 19, 22, Ellinas discloses a number of routing paths in a group cycle (path cost field). See figure 13.

Regarding claims 23, 24 Ellinas discloses that each data packet routed around the alternative route contains an ID field that identifies the cycle of routers, a path cost field containing the cost of the least a path number (cost path). See col.11 lines 40-50.

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

-Stamatelakis et al (US Patent No. 6,404,734 B1) discloses scalable network restoration device.

-Bechtel et al (US Patent No. 5,751,696) discloses multiplexed-communications network having mixed protection against faults and error.

-De Moer et al (US Patent No. 6,147,968) discloses method and apparatus for data transmission in synchronous optical network.

Art Unit: 2665

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communication from the examiner should be directed to Thien Tran whose telephone number is (703) 306-5445. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:30AM to 5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Huy Vu, can be reached on (703) 308-6602. Any inquiry of a general nature of relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

Thien Tran



ALPUS H. HSU
PRIMARY EXAMINER